Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 108676 TOSEC 040263
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66011
DRAFTED BY: S/S: PSEBASTIAN: BABS
APPROVED BY: S/S PSEBASTIAN
----------131823Z 106210 /45
O 131800Z MAY 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 108676 TOSEC 040263

NODIS
CHEROKEE, FOR THE SECRETARY

FOLLOWING REPEAT DAMASCUS 3021 ACTION SECSTATE MAY 12.

QUOTE S E C R E T DAMASCUS 3021

NODIS CHEROKEE

PASS SECRETARY FROM MURPHY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SY, US, PLO
SUBJECT: PLO RESERVATION OF ITS POSITION ON REFUGEE
WORDING IN 242

1. ASSAD AND PARTY RETURNED DAMASCUS EVENING MAY 11.
I CONFIRMED WITH DAOUDY ON THEIR ARRIVAL THAT ASSAD HAD
BEEN BRIEFED IN GENEVA ON OUR MESSAGE, SENT TUESDAY THROUGH
EMBASSY BERN, AND THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO DISCUSSION WITH
OTHERS OUTSIDE OFFICIAL SYRIAN PARTY RE CARTER-ASSAD
EXCHANGE ON ABOVE SUBJECT.

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PAGE 02 STATE 108676 TOSEC 040263

2. MET WITH DAOUDY AT 1100 LOCAL THIS MORNING. I
EXPLAINED WE WISHED TO KEEP THIS SENSITIVE ISSUE FROM
BEING CAUGHT UP IN THE ISRAELI ELECTIONS WHICH WOULD
HAPPEN IF NEWS LEAKED. CERTAIN ELEMENTS IN ISRAEL WOULD
TRY TO SHOOT IDEA DOWN AND IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO GIVE
THEM THE AMMUNITION. ADDED THAT YOU WISHED REFLECT FURTHER
ON THE QUESTION OF BROADENING THE CIRCLE OF THOSE ARAB

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LEADERS WHO WOULD KNOW ABOUT THIS ITEM IN CARTER-ASSAD MEETING. SAID WE WOULD BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH SYRIAN LEADERSHIP ON LATTER QUESTION IN THE "NEXT WEEK OR SO."

3. STRESSED THAT IN MEANTIME SYRIANS SHOULD PLAN DISCUSS CARTER'S IDEA ONLY WITH ARAFAT AND EVEN THAT DISCUSSION SHOULD TAKE PLACE ONLY AFTER ISRAELI ELECTIONS. ARAFAT SHOULD BE URGED NOT TO DISCUSS IT WITH OTHERS.

4. DAOUDY UNDERTOOK INFORM ASSAD IMMEDIATELY AND SAID THAT WE COULD COUNT ON TOTAL SYRIAN DISCRETION.

5. COMMENT: WE HAVE NOW LICENSED SYRIAN DISCUSSION WITH ARAFAT ON THIS SUBJECT EFFECTIVE MAY 18. IF YOU DECIDE THAT FOR ANY REASON MORE TIME WILL BE NEEDED ON OUR SIDE, URGE I BE ADVISED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. TO MAINTAIN DESIRABLE LEVEL OF CONFIDENCE, I SHOULD ALSO BE IN POSITION TELL SYRIANS IF WE DECIDE TO INFORM OTHER ARAB LEADERS BEFORE DAMASCUS CONTACTS ARAFAT.
MURPHY. UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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